

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ADANA

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: LIBERATION DAY IN ADANA FEATURES NATIONAL POLITICIANS

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER SULEMAN DEMIREL, NAP AND RRP LEADERS ALPARSLAN TURKES AND TURHAN FEYZIOGLU PLUS SEVERAL MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS JOINED THE CITIZENS OF ADANA JANUARY 5 TO COMMEMORATE THEIR LIBERATION FROM FRENCH OCCUPATION. GROUPS OF ACTIVE WELL ORGANIZED NAP SUPPORTERS MADE THE ATMOSPHERE MORE POLITICAL. BUT THE MOOD WAS MAINLY FESTIVE, UNMARRED BY VIOLENCE, AND CHARACTERIZED BY MASSIVE SCHEDULING OF EVENTS WHICH LEFT THE TOWN AND ITS TRAFFIC ON ITS EAR AND INDICATED THAT THIS CELEBRATION

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HAD MAJOR IMPORTANCE. RPP CRITICS TOOK NOTE OF ECEVIT'S ABSENCE FROM THE FESTIVITIES. END SUMMARY

2. JANUARY 5, 1977, ADANA CELEBRATED ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION FROM FRENCH OCCUPATION. PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS LED BY PM DEMIREL ATTENDED MOST IF NOT ALL OF A SERIES OF WREATH LAYINGS, PARADES, FIREWORKS, AND OTHER CEREMONIES THAT BEGAN WITH THE FIRING OF CANNON AT 0630 AND CONTINUED WELL INTO THE NIGHT.

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3. THE CENTRAL EVENT WAS A COLORFUL TWO HOUR PARADE REVIEWED IN FRONT OF CITY HALL BY THE PM IN COMPANY WITH ADANA MAYOR EGE BAGATUR, SIXTH CORPS COMMANDER, LGEN RECAI ENGIN AND GOVERNOR LUTFI TUNCEL. THOUSANDS OF ADANA CITIZENS TURNED OUT FOR THE EVENT AND OTHER THOUSANDS MARCHED PAST LED BY MORE THAN 100 LIBERATION WAR VETERANS WHO WERE VARIOUSLY AND COLORFULLY CLAD, OFTEN IN THEIR ORIGINAL PARTISAN UNIFORMS. ALL BUT A FEW OF THESE

OCTOGENARIANS MARCHED FIRMLY UNDER THEIR OWN STEAM, ARMED TO THE TEETH WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF RIFLES, PISTOLS, SCIMITARS AND BANDOLIERS. A NUMBER OF THEM HALTED BRIEFLY TO FIRE INTO THE AIR (PRESUMABLY BLANK ROUNDS) FROM WEAPONS RANGING FROM RIFLES TO ANCIENT FOWLING PIECES, OFTEN WITHIN 30 FEET OF THEIR ESTEEMED GUEST. THAT PERSONAGE, WHILE DOUBTLESS HONORED, MIGHT WELL HAVE REFLECTED THAT IN THIS PART OF TURKEY IT BEHOOVES A POLITICIAN NOT TO BE

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UNPOPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE.

4. MOST OF THE PEOPLE STREAMING BY (WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF A FEW OF THE SCHOOL TEACHERS LEADING THEIR CLASSES) SUGGESTED AN ATTITUDE OF GOOD WILL AND CURIOSITY TOWARD THE PRIME MINISTER, AS THEY MARCHED VERY PROUDLY PAST. GROUPS OF ARTISANS WITH FLOATS DEMONSTRATING THEIR CRAFTS LENT ANOTHER COLORFUL TOUCH. THIS SMALL BUSINESS CLASS, WHICH WITH THE FARMERS IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BACKBONE OF SULEYMAN BEY'S SUPPORT LOCALLY, SHOWED ITS EVIDENT AFFECTION--ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PEOPLE JUMPED DOWN FROM THE FLOATS TO PRESENT HIM WITH GIFTS.

5. NAP LEADER TURKES, WHO SAT AS A SIMPLE WATCHER IN THE GRANDSTAND WITH RRP LEADER FEYZIOGUL, HOWEVER, HAD HIS PRESENCE RENDERED ANYTHING BUT PASSIVE THROUGH HIS SUPPORTERS WHOSE WELL-COORDINATED ACTIONS REINFORCED THEIR GROWING LOCAL REPUTATION FOR DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION. WHEREAS THE JUSTICE PARTY HAD PLACED A GROUP OF 25-50 CHEERERS DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE REIEWING STAND, THE NAP HAD QUIETLY MANAGED TO POSITION TWO LARGE GROUPS OF YOUTH ON EITHER SIDE ON THE JP GROUP. THESE WERE ABLE TO MAKE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTRAL PARADE RESOUND WITH RECURRENT CHANTS OF "BASBUG TURKES" AND OTHER SLOGANS. SENSIBLY THEY RESERVED THEIR CHANTING FOR THE

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TIME PERIODS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AND PRECEEDING THE PARADE.

6. THE JP CHEERING SECTION DID ITS BEST, FAVORING SUCH CHANTS AS "SULEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT" AND ESPECIALLY "DEMIREL NATIONALIST" (MILLIYETCI DEMIREL). COMMENT: THIS LATTER SLOGAN MIGHT SEEM A PRECURSOR OF A CAMPAIGN STRATEGY PITTING THE "NATIONALIST" DEMIREL AGAINST THE "POPULIST" (HALKCI) ECEVIT. THE RIGHT WING PRESS HAS DWELT AT RECURRENT LENGTH RECENTLY ON THE "SIN" OF THE RPP JOINING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. ONE OF THE MANY WALL SLOGANS WHICH FESTOONED THE CITY READ: "ON JANUARY 5, DEMIREL WAS IN ADANA AND ECEVIT WAS IN BULGARIA."

VON DEN STEINEN

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